SAUBLE FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK
DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN
ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT

February, 1985

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DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary of Public Comment

p. 1, 1.2 Relationship to Sauble Beach

ISSUE

. camper access to the beach on Lake Huron is poor.

RESPONSE

. the Provincial Park and Sauble Beach are connected by a paved road which provides an excellent link between the two areas

p. 4, 2.4 Boundary

ISSUE

. increase number of campsites in the east section but do not put them close together

RESPONSE

. adequate spacing of campsites will be taken into consideration when the site plan is prepared for the proposed expansion area.

p. 5, 3.1 Vegetation

ISSUE

. vegetation management plan should be more broadly based than simple campsite rehabilitation. Wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities should be considered. Fire suppression and the absence of logging will lead to a climax forest which is not conducive to wildlife production.

RESPONSE

. Park is not large enough to separate hunters from other visitors nor supports a wildlife population sufficient to allow hunting. Fire suppression will continue due to the degree of development in the park, surrounding area and protect the adjacent red pine plantations. A vegetation management plan will consider selective logging to improve campsite rehabilitation and improve wildlife viewing opportunities.

ISSUES

. most campsites need grass

. campsites are too shaded

. some campsites need more trees

. campsites are too close

. campsites are too small

. campsites should have sand, not gravel

RESPONSE

. the vegetation management plan will consider such items as thinning the forest cover on the west side to promote the establishment of grass and plant trees on the east side where needed. Plan will also examine present campsite arrangement. If it is determined that some campsites should be closed, then the proposed expansion area will be considered for campsite replacement.

p. 5, 3.2 Fisheries

ISSUE

. do more fish stocking

RESPONSE

. the Ministry of Natural Resources would consider working with a group of volunteers to improve fish habitat and populations along the Sauble River.

ISSUE

. increase fishery resource by expanding fish sanctuary and post some areas for "fly fishing only" or "flies and artificial lures only". Snagging regulations should be simplified to state that "no hooks larger than #4 should be in possession of anglers on trout waters."

RESPONSE

. sanctuaries have been established in Owen Sound District and will be reviewed in five years. These suggestions will be considered at that time.

ISSUE

. construct a boat dock well below the falls. Restrict use to park visitors with a nominal fee to use the dock. No fishing permitted from dock.

RESPONSE

. this would be an expensive facility to construct and then repair annually from ice damage.

ISSUE

. advise park visitors of fishing sites in park and surrounding area.

RESPONSE

. pamphlets are available with this information and park staff can answer visitor's questions.

p. 5, 3.3 Wildlife

ISSUE

. no firearms in park

RESPONSE

. one aspect of improving the Park's linkage with the Rankin Resources Management Area is to permit the possession of enclosed firearms by campers. Possession will only be during the hunting season.

p. 5, 4.0 Client Services

ISSUE

. expand programs to include learning about vegetation, fisheries and wetland management as well as canoe skills and displays along nature trails

RESPONSE

. these suggestions will be considered during the preparation of self-use facilities

ISSUE

. make tourists aware of reservation policy

RESPONSE

. Provincial advertisements and brochures do promote the reservation policy.

ISSUE

. too few hiking rails with existing ones poorly marked.

RESPONSE

. trails are available in the Rankin Resources Management Area and Park visitors are encouraged to use them. More work will be done to properly mark the trails.

ISSUE

. have signs with names of plants and trees

RESPONSE

. this suggestion will be considered in the preparation of self-use facilities

p. 6, 4.2 Research

ISSUE

. research on supply and demand of camping opportunities should focus on quality as well as quantity. Expansion of camping opportunities should emphasize non-vehicular, primitive camping opportunities.

RESPONSE

. Park area is not sufficient to provide primitive camping opportunities

p. 6, 5.1 Campgrounds

ISSUE

. agree with provision of electricity, but not these sites. They are the best sites in the park and will be monopolized by longer term campers. More people should have the opportunity to use these sites.

RESPONSE

. it is less expensive to install and maintain electricity to these sites.

ISSUE

. install more electrical facilities throughout park

RESPONSE

. twenty sites are being considered at this time. However, should demand warrant it, more electrical facilities may be developed.

ISSUE

. install water hookups in east campground

RESPONSE

. water taps are available now. Ministry policy is not to install water hookups at this time, however it may be considered in the future.

ISSUE

. do not put in electrical facilities, instead put in well-enclosed picnic shelters

RESPONSE

. the present park area is too small for such facilities. These facilities will be considered in the expansion area.

ISSUE

. not enough showers

RESPONSE

. due to the fact that showers require large tile beds and the park area is limited, the present facilities are the maximum that can be provided. More showers will be considered in the expansion area.

ISSUE

. improve facilities for people in wheelchairs, especially washrooms.

RESPONSE

. washrooms include wheelchair stalls. Access to the washrooms can be improved.

ISSUE

. each campsite should have a BBQ stand

RESPONSE

. Ministry policy for the standard equipment for campsites does not include a BBQ stand, however it may be considered in the future.

ISSUE

. campsites along river require walkway to water as well as lookout spot to view river

RESPONSE

. this is an interesting idea and will be considered at the time of trail development

p. 6, 5.2 Day-Use Areas

ISSUE

. can provide children's facilities elsewhere in park without reducing parking area which may be needed in future.

RESPONSE

. sufficient parking will be available after the construction of the facilities

ISSUE

. encourage family and school picnics

RESPONSE

. this is presently being done

ISSUE

. require play area in east campground at grass area

RESPONSE

. area contains septic tile bed, therefore development should be limited to goal posts and possibly a baseball diamond.

p. 6, 5.2.1 Canoeing

ISSUES

. require portage around Sauble Falls
. portage under bridge required

RESPONSE

. landscaping improvements are required along the north side of the Sauble River. One such improvement would be to improve access in this area.

p. 6, 5.2.2 Viewing Station

ISSUE

. present fish viewing facilities are satisfactory, do not improve.

RESPONSE

. seating facilities are seen as necessary as well as minor landscaping improvements.

p. 8, 6.0 Implementation

ISSUE

. priority order should be 2, 6, 4, 5, 3, 7, 1, 8, 9.

RESPONSE

. plan will be changed to incorporate the preparation of a vegetation management plan as the first priority.

The following are concerns related to the operation of the Park and should be dealt with in an operating plan.

. require concrete pad in roadway at dumping station so effluent from trailer tanks flows into drain.

. separate young, single campers from family units

. pit toilets in east campground should be re-opened

. washroom floors in east campground are always wet from sweating and should be repaired

. excessive noise at night

. more frequent patrols by park staff

. difficult to find main gate from highway

. fuelwood too expensive, therefore give one armload of wood per night of registration

. separate large trailers from tents

. permit renewal should be made to go more quickly instead of having to wait behind people newly registering

. improve numbering of campsites at the end of the road